



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Enriching Lives"

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November 6, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes *JAN*
Director of Public Works

Rick Auerbach *RA (hls)*
Assessor

GIS READY DIGITAL GRAPHICS SYSTEM AND PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS INFORMATION MARKETING PROGRAM BOARD MOTION OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2003, SYNOPSIS 10

In response to the attached motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the following are a report and recommendations regarding the feasibility of providing, at no cost, the County GIS System (developed jointly by Public Works and the Assessor) for use by law enforcement agencies within the County in connection with police air units.

In 1975, the former County Engineer Department began automating its parcel level cadastral land base to facilitate and expedite creation of maps in support of the building and safety, zoning, and land development responsibilities of the County. In 1994, the Office of the Assessor undertook a process to convert the land base to a GIS Ready Digital Graphic System (the System) for its internal use. More recently, the County acquired digital ortho imagery (aerial photography) for use in conjunction with the System.

The advent of computerized GIS applications throughout the private sector has made the System marketable. On February 7, 1995, your Board authorized Public Works and the Assessor to license the System to both the public and private sectors. The two departments, working in conjunction with the Countywide Marketing Program, have generated over \$1,400,000 in revenue from direct licenses of the System. It has been the intent of both of the departments to license the System so as to recoup, at least in part, the System's development and maintenance costs. All County departments, including the Sheriff, may use the System for internal purposes at no charge.

The County has licensed the System to five companies (partners) who sell it to other jurisdictions and private companies and/or individuals. The System can be sold in different formats, known as products (by the parcel, over the Internet on a subscription basis, by select portions of the System, etc.). Each of these products is defined by a Product Specification Sheet which, when approved, becomes part of the license agreement and defines the price of the product and the royalty paid back to the County. When a product is identified by a partner and a price established, any other partner may also sell the product at that established price.

In addition to sales made directly by the partners, the County also sells the System directly. The current price for the System to cities within the County, is \$0.20 per parcel (a price recently reduced to facilitate availability of the GIS to cities). The partner agreements would not preclude the County from reducing or eliminating the amount that it charges cities when directly selling the System to cities. It also does not appear that there would be significant impact on the partners' marketing efforts should the County provide the System to cities at a more reduced rate or at no charge. However, cities receiving the System at a reduced rate or at no charge should be required to execute a license agreement that clearly defines and limits the city's use of the System to specific law enforcement activities and prohibits the resale or redistribution of the System.

The motion proposes that the GIS System be made available to police agencies that have mutual aid arrangements with the County Sheriff at no cost exclusively for use in police air units for law enforcement purposes. This restriction of use is important in order for the marketing program to be successful. Currently, when the System is sold, either directly by the County or through a partner, it must be done in conjunction with a license agreement. For example, the license prohibits the buyer from reselling or placing the System out over the Internet in a down-loadable fashion. Without these precautions, the System could be distributed freely by a buyer, which would greatly diminish the market value of the System. If the System is provided to city law enforcement agencies, it is critical that a license agreement be executed between the County and the law enforcement agency of the City. This license would clearly prohibit the distribution of the System outside of the law enforcement agency, or use by the City for any purpose other than in association with air support operations.

Currently the County has one marketing partner, Metamap, Inc., that specializes in developing and providing GIS applications to law enforcement agencies and emergency service providers. Metamap has developed an aviation navigation system that utilizes the GIS as a component of its navigation units, and has entered into an agreement with the County to provide this application to the Foothill Air Support Team (FAST). The first-year cost to FAST for utilizing the GIS data through Metamap is \$0.01 per parcel, or

approximately \$25,000. The royalty back to the County under the terms of the agreement is 65 percent of this amount, or \$16,250. Annual updates would be provided at a cost of 50 percent of the original royalty. This revenue would be lost if the GIS was made available to FAST (and to other potential requestors) at no cost.

It is concluded that providing the GIS System to County law enforcement agencies for use in helicopter air support activities is feasible. The reproduction cost to provide the System to a city, for this purpose would be minimal. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to the Sheriff's Department in its law enforcement effort and will not result in a substantial loss of revenue from the Board's GIS marketing program.

Recommendations

1. Direct Public Works and recommend that the Assessor allow the Sheriff and law enforcement agencies willing to provide mutual aid air support to the Sheriff's Department to obtain at no cost (exclusive of reproduction costs only) initial and updated GIS and parcel data information for exclusive use in the respective agency's air support operations.
2. Approve inclusion of the aerial photography acquired by the County in the County's GIS System for use in aviation law enforcement activities and for other GIS marketing purposes.
3. Reaffirm the Board's intention to continue with the GIS marketing program.

JEA:in
P1:am782

Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Office
Sheriff's Department

A-



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
→ Director of Public Works

At its meeting held September 9, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"In 1997, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and the Assessor developed a geographic information system (GIS). This system provides a graphic representation of all 2.3 million parcels within Los Angeles County, including parcels both in unincorporated areas and within incorporated cities. The parcel information was developed by Public Works; and the Assessor provided an overlay of information from its DSOIII database that provides data on property-ownership, Assessor's parcel number, property location, and related information.

"Although County staff designed the GIS information to serve its own needs, this information is of great use to private sector corporations, nonprofit institutions and research facilities, and the general public. For this reason the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of Public Works and the Assessor to enter into agreements with private sector consulting firms to market and sell GIS information to the public.

"The GIS information has proved to be an invaluable law enforcement tool for the Sheriff, particularly for its air support (helicopter) units. Law enforcement representatives of incorporated cities within the County are now inquiring about using the GIS information for their purposes as well.

(Continued on Page 2)

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"Criminal behavior does not follow jurisdictional boundaries. This is particularly the case for law enforcement helicopters pursuing criminal suspects. Furthermore, charging a fee to sister law enforcement agencies for GIS information is contrary to the dozens of law enforcement mutual aid agreements that the County has with other jurisdictions. Thus far, no outside law enforcement agency has purchased the GIS information."

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board request the Director of Public Works, the Sheriff, Assessor, Chief Administrative Officer, and County Counsel to report back to the Board within 30 days on:

1. The feasibility of entering into agreements with law enforcement agencies to allow access, at no cost, to the Department of Public Works' geographic information system, which provides graphic representation of all 2.3 million parcels within the County, and the corresponding Assessor's overlay information from their DSOIII database that provides data on property ownership, Assessor's parcel number, property location, and related information; and
2. The feasibility of providing free-of-cost updates of the Assessor's overlay information to the Sheriff's Department.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich's motion be amended to also request the aforementioned Department Heads to include in their report what the appropriate cost recovery would be for use of the geographic information system by other law enforcement agencies. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

Supervisor Antonovich's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, was unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent).

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Sheriff